

**What is claimed is:**

1. An operating-microscope system for operations on fine biological structures of a patient on an operating table, the operating microscope system comprising:
  - 5 an operating microscope;
  - a carrier system for the microscope;
  - at least one drive element for moving and/or focusing the microscope; and
  - 10 a sterilizable hand switch operatively connected to actuate said drive element,
    - wherein said sterilizable hand switch is arrangeable on the operating table.
- 15 2. The operating-microscope system of claim 1, wherein the switch includes devices for fastening the switch to the operating table or to parts which extending from the operating table.
- 20 3. The operating-microscope system of claim 1, wherein the switch is connected to the drive element or the supply unit thereof, by a cable.
- 25 4. The operating-microscope system of claim 2, wherein the switch is connected to the drive element or the supply unit thereof, by a cable.
5. The operating-microscope system of claim 1, wherein the switch is connected in a wireless manner to the drive element or the supply unit thereof.

6. The operating-microscope system of claim 2, wherein the switch is connected in a wireless manner to the drive element or the supply unit thereof.

5 7. The operating-microscope system of claim 2, wherein said devices for fastening are sterilizable and comprise a clamp and an adjustable connecting element between the clamp and the switch.

10 8. The operating-microscope system of claim 3, wherein said devices for fastening are sterilizable and comprise a clamp and an adjustable connecting element between the clamp and the switch.

15 9. The operating-microscope system of claim 4, wherein said devices for fastening are sterilizable and comprise a clamp and an adjustable connecting element between the clamp and the switch.

10. The operating-microscope system of claim 7, wherein the connecting element comprises a bead chain, a swan-neck or an arrangement of tubes or rods connected by joints or clips.

20 11. The operating-microscope system of claim 1, wherein the switch has a base and a hook-like or undercut actuating element extending from the base.

25 12. The operating-microscope system of claim 11, wherein the actuating element is mushroom-shaped.

30 13. The operating-microscope system of claim 11, wherein the actuating element is moveable in two perpendicular essentially horizontal directions and in an essentially vertical direction and has six corresponding switching functions.

14. The operating-microscope system of claim 1, wherein the switch is adjustable about a vertical axis.

5 15. The operating-microscope system of claim 13, wherein the switch is adjustable about a vertical axis.

16. The operating-microscope system of claim 2, wherein the switch has a base and a hook-like or undercut actuating element extending from the base.

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17. An operating microscope system comprising:  
an operating microscope including an actuator for focusing the microscope;  
a carrier system for the microscope, said carrier system comprising at least one motor for moving said microscope;  
15 a sterilizable hand switch for activating said actuator or said at least one motor; and  
an operating table for supporting a patient,  
wherein said sterilizable hand switch is arranged on said table.

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18. The operating microscope system of claim 17, comprising:  
a clamp for fastening said sterilizable hand switch to said table;  
and  
25 an adjustable connecting element between said clamp and said switch.

19. The operating microscope system of claim 17, wherein said sterilizable hand switch is connected to said actuator and said motor by a connection selected from a cable or a wireless connection.

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20 The operating microscope system of claim 18, wherein said adjustable connecting element is selected from a bead chain, a swan-neck or an arrangement of tubes or rods connected by joints or clips.